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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/919,412	07/30/2001	Bin Lu	ENR-015	4205

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EXAMINER

PRIETO, BEATRIZ

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2142

DATE MAILED: 06/13/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/919,412	Applicant(s) LU ET AL.	
	Examiner Prieto Beatriz	Art Unit 2142	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 May 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-43 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-43 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 20 July 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |



DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is in response to Amendment filed 03/09/06, all independent claim at least have been amended to include added limitation(s), claims 1-43 have been examined.

2. Regarding newly added or amended claims, Applicant (Thomas Catale Reg. No. 46,434) has indicated 01/04/05, that a written description for added limitation, i.e. further limiting the location message to include "a preview of the media file" is not found in the specification of instant invention, in response to examiner's inquiry to show/point out support to the above-mentioned amendment (see MPEP 2163 B II, "Applicant should specifically point out the support for any amendments made to the disclosure." See MPEP 2163 B II). The original claims as filed form part of the original disclosure. See *In re Gardner*, 475 F.2d 1389, 177 USPQ 396 (CCPA 1973). As such, written description for the above-mentioned amendment may be found (at least) on claims 5 and 20, as filed on 7/30/01.

Applicant has amended the specification through the above-mentioned response to added that the location message includes a preview of the media file, not previously disclosed in the detailed description of instant invention as originally filed.

3. Claim interpretation, the claimed term "preview of the media file", has been applied the broadest reasonable interpretation (MPEP §2106/2111). In this case, in view of the lacking written description of said claimed term, this term will broadly mean, a view or an advance showing or to view in advance, sample or survey of a file.

Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103

4. Quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action may be found in previous office action.

5. Claims 1-6, 8-9, 13-21, 23-24, 28-36, 38, 42-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuzma (US 5,771,355) in view of Hoffert et. al. (US 5,903,892) (Hoffert hereafter) in further view of Rudy et. al. (US 6,360,252) and as further exemplified by

Soles et. al. (US 2001/0143918)

Regarding claim 1, Kuzma teaches a system (Figs. 1-3 and col 1/lines 26-56) and method (col 14/lines 24-43) configured to communicate media files, comprising:

a sender client configured to provide a message comprising: a recipient address and a handle to a media file (col 1/lines 13-22, col 2/lines 24-58), the handle to the media comprising reference to the media file (col 1/lines 36-67), and a pointer location to the media file (col 5/lines 10-54);

a server configured to receive and provide said message from the sender client to a receiver client that corresponds with said recipient address, said receiver client configured to receive said message from said server (col 3/lines 26-62);

wherein said receiver client is configured to access said media file from the sender client and a peer receiver client source of the media file (col 44/lines 44-47, col 5/lines 10-54 and col 6/lines 8-15), however Kuzma teaches a message comprising a handle to a media file, he does not teach where the media file includes copyright information.

Hoffert teachings related to the field of digital media such as audio/video clips (abstract, background) including the delivery via an email server (col 28/lines 11-16), teaches wherein to facilitate the delivery/retrieval of media files by indexing streaming media files with information describing the media files content, including a handle to the media file, e.g. URL and content attributes such as title, author, copyright information (col 6/lines 53-col 7/line 19).

It would have been obvious to one ordinary skilled in the art at the time the invention was made given the suggestion of Kuzma for retrieving media files using a handle to the media file, the teachings of Hoffert for enabling the retrieval of media files by attributes other than their type, would be readily apparent. One would be motivated to enhance files transmittable over the Internet including email, with file indexing attributes more descriptive of the content, such as the media file location, e.g. socket, header data, title, author, copyright, additional information such as resolution, duration, resolution, frame rate, etc. this would enable the receiver client ascertain the resources and the time required for selectively downloading desired media file, as explicitly suggested by the applied references; however, the above-mentioned prior art does not teach sending a message further comprising a preview of a file.

Rudy teachings regarding digital media and the field of electronic email, teaches sending in a message a user understandable description of a file comprising the name of the file, and a small thumbnail of the image file i.e. a view in advance or preview of the media file (col 7/lines 49-58), wherein said file may include a media file (col 7/lines 14-21).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made given the suggestions of handling media files using email the teachings of Rudy would be readily apparent. One of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to include a preview of the media file in the form of a thumbnail, which provides a preview image of and an index to the corresponding full size of the media file. One would be motivated to apply Rudy's teachings because they can be used where there is a low bandwidth connection between the server and a user's client machine, where there is a high latency connection such as through a satellite link or a modem or Wireless Application Protocol (WAP) phone that requires time to establish connection, or where there is an unreliable or intermittent connection. In addition, the techniques are advantageous because they can be used where the client machine is not adequate to render most attachments due to storage limitations or due to inadequate output capabilities, such as a small display or a display with inadequate resolution; however the above-mentioned prior art does not explicitly teaches determining the connectivity between to clients.

One of ordinary skill in the art would recognize that connectivity between to communicatively operating devices can be determined via a ping, probe or ICMP among other mechanisms. Soles merely exemplifies the mechanism for checking for a connection to another peer client for establishing a communication therewith [Soles 0078]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made given the computing devices of a broad range [Soles 0036] configured to transfer multi-media data between them including providing/publishing multimedia stored therein [Soles 0005-0010] using the internet address/unique identifier [0046] for communicating, to determine if there is a existing connection by means of sending a ping message (i.e. request/response that verifies that a connection is established) to check connectivity to the peer client. One would be motivated to include the teachings of Soles into the Kuzma system making reference to available media files via email for enabling a broad range of peer clients to become active part of distributed applications that span many peers the transfer of data such as images, music files or video clips

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because in doing so client may choose from with peer client to retrieve data providing the choice to check for a connection to a peer client(s) from which media files can be retrieved and select the sending peer client through which the media file can be retrieved in the shortest amount of time, as suggested by Soles.

Regarding claims 2-3, wherein the sender and receiver clients are a personal computer (120 of Figs. 1-2, col 3/lines 7-18).

Regarding claim 4, wherein the server is an application service provider accessed via an Internet (301)(col 3/lines 19-46, col 3/line 63-col 4/line 10).

Regarding claim 5, wherein said message comprises a text of data information (col 1/lines 23-25).

Regarding claim 6, address are network email address (col 1/lines 14-22)

6. Claims 7, 22, and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the references as applied to claim 1, in further view of Hsu et. al. (US 6,295,058) (Hsu hereafter).

Regarding claim 7, Hsu teachings pertaining the invention's field of endeavor, discusses as prior art the transmission of electronic mail containing audio and/or visual files obtained from various sources, e.g. a video cassette recorder or camcorder are converted in a suitable format, e.g. MPEG and stored locally on a storage device, and transmitting stored files as an email to a mail server (col 2/lines 3-15).

It would have been obvious to one ordinary skilled in the art at the time the invention was made given the suggestion of Kuzma that the personal computers may be any suitable computer system which additionally may include a special purpose video processor, a video camera, and graphic viewer programs for rendering graphic files associated with email messages. One ordinary skilled in the art would be motivate create multimedia emails with a simple for of

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electronic communication to enable accessible to the general public and using an open architecture providing a service independent of the email service provider, as taught by Hsu.

Regarding claims 8-9, the sender and receiver client is further configured to use an HTTP protocol to provide and receive the location message (Kuzma: col 3/lines 63-col 4/line 31, 44-50).

7. Claims 10-12, 25-27 and 39-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the references as applied to claim 1, in further view of Thurlow et. al. (US 6,457,879) (Thurlow hereafter).

Regarding claims 10-12, 25-27 and 39-41, however Kuzma does not explicitly teach a connection determination step.

Thurlow teaching pertaining to the invention's field of endeavor, teach determining the connection status between a client and server (col 15/lines 47-57, col 16/lines 54-67), and processing messages according to determined connection status (abstract).

It would have been obvious to one ordinary skilled in the art at the time the invention was made given the suggestion of Kuzma for enabling clients to have server functions to enable any client access each other in a peer fashion to include Thurlow's teachings for processing messages, e.g. sending and receiving between clients via servers. The teachings of Thurlow when applied to Kuzma will enable the clients or server to perform connection status determinations and process messages according to determined status. One would be motivated to provide users poll email server or client, e.g. recipients while online for incoming messages or reception availability, respectively, or offer user the option to work online or offline, discussed by Thurlow.

Regarding claims 13-15, connections between sender, mail server and recipient are Internet protocol based supported (Kuzma: col 12/lines 33-49). The system of claim 1, further comprising:

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Regarding claim 16, this claim is substantially the same a claim 1 as discussed, wherein “configured” has been changed for “coupled”, same rationale of rejection is applicable.

Regarding claims 17-22, these claims are substantially the same as claims 2-7, discussed above same rationale of rejection is applicable.

Regarding claim 23, the protocol used by the receiver client to provide the location message is HTTP (Kuzma: col 12/lines 33-49).

Regarding claim 24-30, these claims are substantially the same as claims 9-15, same rationale of rejection is applicable.

Regarding claim 31, this claim comprises in substance the same subject matter discussed on claim 1, same rationale of rejection is applicable.

Regarding claims 32-43, these claims are substantially the same as claims 2-15, same rationale of rejection is applicable.

8. Claims 1, 16 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuzma in view of Hoffert in further view of Visual Preview for Link Traversal on the WWW, Kopetzky, T. et. al. (Kopetzky hereafter) and as further exemplified by Soles et. al. (US 2001/0143918)

Regarding claim 1, Kuzma teaches a system (Figs. 1-3 and col 1/lines 26-56) and method (col 14/lines 24-43) configured to communicate media files, comprising:

a sender client configured to provide a message comprising: a recipient address and a handle to a media file (col 1/lines 13-22, col 2/lines 24-58), the handle to the media comprising reference to the media file (col 1/lines 36-67), and a pointer location to the media file (col 5/lines 10-54);

a server configured to receive and provide said message from the sender client to a receiver client that corresponds with said recipient address, said receiver client configured to receive said message from said server (col 3/lines 26-62);

wherein said receiver client is configured to access said media file from the sender client and a peer receiver client source of the media file (col 44/lines 44-47, col 5/lines 10-54 and col 6/lines 8-15), however Kuzma teaches a message comprising a handle to a media file, he does not teach where the media file includes copyright information.

Hoffert teachings related to the field of digital media such as audio/video clips (abstract, background) including the delivery via an email server (col 28/lines 11-16), teaches wherein to facilitate the delivery/retrieval of media files by indexing streaming media files with information describing the media files content, including a handle to the media file, e.g. URL and content attributes such as title, author, copyright information (col 6/lines 53-col 7/line 19).

It would have been obvious to one ordinary skilled in the art at the time the invention was made given the suggestion of Kuzma for retrieving media files using a handle to the media file, the teachings of Hoffert for enabling the retrieval of media files by attributes other than their type, would be readily apparent. One would be motivated to enhance files transmittable over the Internet including email, with file indexing attributes more descriptive of the content, such as the media file location, e.g. socket, header data, title, author, copyright, additional information such as resolution, duration, resolution, frame rate, etc. this would enable the receiver client ascertain the resources and the time required for selectively downloading desired media file, as explicitly suggested by the applied references. However, the above-mentioned prior art does not teach utilizing a preview of a file for describing a media file.

Kopetzky teaches adding the handle to a media file comprising a pointer to the location of a media file, a preview of the media file, denoted link preview. The link further comprises a preview image (Fig. 1, 2a-b and 3a) of the media file (p. 1-3). The enhanced links can be used for preview purposes (p. 4).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made given the suggestion of Kuzma using a handle to a media file comprising a reference to the media file and a pointer location to the media file, the teachings of Kopetzky for further enhancing said handle to a media file comprising a reference to the media file and a pointer to

the location of the media file would have been readily apparent. One would be motivated to overcome the limitation of existing prior art in (discussed by Kopetzky) providing information regarding a media file other than textual hints provided to help the user to decide if a link is worthwhile to follow, because these are not supported by the standards browser. One would be motivated to apply the Kopetzky teachings to Kuzma's handle to a media file comprising a reference to the media file and a pointer location to the media file, because the technique can be used to implement a local overview for web browsing and at the same time works with standard browsers without authoring effort and provides the user with a view of e.g. the page and content associated with the link, as noted by Kopetzky. However the above-mentioned prior art does not explicitly teach determining the connectivity between to clients.

One of ordinary skill in the art would recognize that connectivity between to communicatively operating devices can be determined via a ping, probe or ICMP among other mechanisms. Soles merely exemplifies the mechanism for checking for a connection to another peer client for establishing a communication therewith [Soles 0078]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made given the computing devices of a broad range [Soles 0036] configured to transfer multi-media data between them including providing/publishing multimedia stored therein [Soles 0005-0010] using the internet address/unique identifier [0046] for communicating, to determine if there is an existing connection by means of sending a ping message (i.e. request/response that verifies that a connection is established) to check connectivity to the peer client. One would be motivated to include the teachings of Soles into the Kuzma system making reference to available media files via email for enabling a broad range of peer clients to become active part of distributed applications that span many peers the transfer of data such as images, music files or video clips because in doing so client may choose from with peer client to retrieve data providing the choice to check for a connection to a peer client(s) from which media files can be retrieved and select the sending peer client through which the media file can be retrieved in the shortest amount of time, as suggested by Soles.

Regarding claim 16, this claim is substantially the same as claim 1 as discussed, wherein "configured" has been changed for "coupled", same rationale of rejection is applicable.

Regarding claim 31, this claim comprises in substance the same subject matter discussed on claim 1, same rationale of rejection is applicable.

Response to Arguments

9. Regarding at least claims 1, 16, and 31 are rejected as being unpatentable over Kuzma in view of Hoffert, it is argued (p. 16 of remarks) that the applied prior art Rudy *teaches away from the embodiments as recited in claim 1*.

In response to the above-mentioned argument, applicant's interpretation of the applied prior art has been carefully reviewed as well as the claims. It is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., a location message that is not an email or a location message that is not an email containing an attachment) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

Claim 1 at least recites a system comprising a location message, thus (i) the transitional term "comprising", which is synonymous with "including," "containing," or "characterized by," is inclusive or open-ended and does not exclude additional, unrecited elements or method steps. See, e.g., *Mars Inc. v. H.J. Heinz Co.*, 377 F.3d 1369, 1376, 71 USPQ2d 1837, 1843 (Fed. Cir. 2004) ("like the term comprising, the terms containing and mixture are open-ended."); *Invitrogen Corp. v. Biocrest Mfg., L.P.*, 327 F.3d 1364, 1368, 66 USPQ2d 1631, 1634 (Fed. Cir. 2003) ("The transition comprising in a method claim indicates that the claim is open-ended and allows for additional steps."); *Genentech, Inc. v. Chiron Corp.*, 112 F.3d 495, 501, 42 USPQ2d 1608, 1613 (Fed. Cir. 1997) ("Comprising is a term of art used in claim language which means that the named elements are essential, but other elements may be added and still form a construct within the scope of the claim.); *Moleculon Research Corp. v. CBS, Inc.*, 793 F.2d 1261, 229 USPQ 805 (Fed. Cir. 1986); *In re Baxter*, 656 F.2d 679, 686, 210 USPQ 795, 803 (CCPA 1981); *Ex parte Davis*, 80 USPQ 448, 450 (Bd. App. 1948) ("comprising" leaves "the claim open for the inclusion of unspecified ingredients even in major amounts"). In *Gillette Co. v. Energizer Holdings Inc.*, 405 F.3d 1367, 1371-73, 74 USPQ2d 1586, 1589-91 (Fed. Cir. 2005); (ii) the

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breadth and/or broadest reasonable interpretation of the term “location message” in light of specification is an electronic message, this does not exclude an electronic message, such as an electronic mail message, nor thus it exclude the content of the electronic mail message, i.e. an attachment, header, body, etc.

Applicant is urged to amend the language of the claim if he/she intends the claimed term “location message” not to be interpreted in a way other than the above-mentioned.

10. Regarding at least claims 1, 16, and 31 are rejected as being unpatentable over Kuzma in view of Hoffert, it is argued (p. 16 of remarks) that the applied prior art Kopetzky teaches a preview of a web page to which a hyperlink in another web page points.

In response to the above-mentioned argument, applicant’s interpretation of the applied prior art has been carefully reviewed as well as the claims. It is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., a media file is not a web page) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993). Claim 1 at least recites a system comprising a location message comprising a preview of the media file, thus (i) the transitional term “comprising”, which is synonymous with “including,” “containing,” or “characterized by,” is inclusive or open-ended and does not exclude additional, unrecited elements or method steps, as mentioned above; (ii) the breadth and/or broadest reasonable interpretation of the term “media file” in light of specification is a file comprising digital media, this does not exclude a file containing digital media nor written in any markup language, e.g. a “web page”, nor does it exclude any digital media file comprising image, video, audio, text or any combination thereof.

Applicant is urged to amend the language of the claim if he/she intends the claimed term “media file” not to be interpreted in a way other than the above-mentioned.

11. Regarding at least claims 1, 16, and 31 are rejected as being unpatentable over Kuzma in view of Hoffert, it is argued (p. 17 of remarks) that the applied prior art does not teach the now added limitation, i.e. check for a connection to the sender client on which to receive the media file upon receiving the location message.

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Applicant's arguments with respect to claims amended by adding the above-mentioned limitation have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

12. Applicant's argument filed 11/28/05 have been fully considered but not rendered persuasive.

13. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Prieto, B. whose telephone number is (571) 272-3902. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 6:00 to 3:30 p.m. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's Supervisor, Andrew T. Caldwell can be reached at (571) 272-3868. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3800/4700.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system, status information for published application may be obtained from either Private or Public PAIR, for unpublished application Private PAIR only (see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov> or the Electronic Business Center at 866-217-9197 (toll-free)).

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B. Prieto
Primary Examiner
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June 10, 2006

Beatriz Prieto
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